

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1659, introduced by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. SMITH) directs the Secretary of the Interior to fulfill a 1982 statutory requirement that the Federal Government acquire private lands and minerals within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Eighteen years ago, this tragedy happened. Mr. Speaker, 16 years after creation of the monument and 15 years after the statutory deadline for the exchange, it will finally bring this issue to a close, finally.

This legislation has the bipartisan support of members of the Washington Delegation and the administration. It equitably and finally completes the exchange previously mandated by Congress when the monument was created.

I congratulate my colleague, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. SMITH), and all parties involved for their excellent work, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this very common-sense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Mount Saint Helen's National Volcanic Monument Completion Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by exchange, the mineral and geothermal interests of the Burlington Northern, Incorporated and the Weyerhaeuser Companies in the Mount Saint Helen's National Volcanic Monument in the State of Washington.

We appreciate the interest of the Washington delegation to see this exchange executed as soon as possible, as the matter has been unsettled for too long. Therefore, we were pleased to learn that an appraisal agreement had been reached between the federal government and the private landowners involved.

The negotiations have concluded with the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser agreeing upon a value of \$4.2 million.

The Administration has indicated that they have no objection to the substitute bill which incorporates this agreement and is being offered today.

Clearly, Burlington and Weyerhaeuser should be compensated for their mineral rights within Mount Saint Helen's National Volcanic Monument. Now that the Administration is no longer opposed to the bill because an agreed-upon value for the property has been accomplished and will be included in the bill, we see no reason to oppose the bill.

We are in strong support of this legislation. The previous problems that they had with respect to value for the property have been worked out. We urge the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. LINDA SMITH).

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs.

CHENOWETH) for yielding. She has been a great chairman. And I want to thank her staff. This has not been one of the easier bills, and I know that they did a lot of work in trying to negotiate the final principles and values in this bill.

I want to talk about what happened in 1980 for a moment so we understand what brings us to this day. Mount St. Helens erupted in what was one of nature's most beautiful events and also most devastating. It caused a 250-mile-per-hour avalanche and high winds that destroyed over 150 square miles of forests, and it sent a plume of ash over to the eastern side of the State that was like nothing we have ever seen. In fact, it took quite a while to clean it up.

But, after that, it took until 1982 to establish a monument. And in that process, we decided to protect 110,000 acres around the volcano for future recreation and education and research. This monument actually preserves this area, but it also has become a living classroom.

Underneath this new beautiful park and living classroom, though, has been captured the mineral rights that were supposed to be exchanged in the original agreement in 1982 so that those that owned the mineral rights got mineral rights somewhere else or some compensation.

Today, after all of this time, and this started in 1980, we are finally keeping our commitment to those that own the mineral rights to make reasonable exchanges for what is their property. So I again want to thank the chairman, I want to thank the staff and all of the members of our delegation who unanimously support this legislation in bringing us to this day; a long time, but finally fairness has prevailed and we, the government, are keeping our commitment to those various landowners.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by applauding my colleague from Washington State, Mrs. SMITH, for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. I also commend the hard work of Mr. YOUNG, the Chairman of the Resources Committee and Mrs. CHENOWETH, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, for their excellent work in moving this legislation forward.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1659, the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Completion Act. This legislation completes the work begun with the creation of the monument in 1982 by bringing the remaining privately owned mineral rights within the monument into federal ownership.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifetime resident of Washington State, I remember the awesome spectacle of Mt. St. Helens' eruption and the tragic loss of lives and property it caused. The federal government created the St. Helens National Monument to preserve the unique volcanic landscape that resulted. However, it was never the intent of Congress that the creation of this monument should result in an uncompensated loss of private property. In fact, the enacting legislation required all land and mineral rights to be acquired by exchange within one year. Fifteen years later, this statutory requirement has not been met.

Mr. Speaker, the completion of the original terms of the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument is long overdue. H.R. 1659 will fulfill the commitment made by the United States in a manner which is fair to both the private landowners and the American taxpayers. This is a good bill that I urge my colleagues to support.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1659, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1659, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR BICENTENNIAL OF LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 144) to express support for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. RES. 144

Whereas the Expedition commanded by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, which came to be called "The Corps of Discovery", was one of the most remarkable and productive scientific and military exploring expeditions in all American history;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson gave Lewis and Clark the mission to "explore the Missouri River & such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce";

Whereas the Expedition, in response to President Jefferson's directive, greatly advanced our geographical knowledge of the continent and prepared the way for the extension of the American fur trade with American Indian tribes throughout the area;

Whereas President Jefferson directed the explorers to take note of and carefully record the natural resources of the newly acquired territory known as Louisiana, as well as diligently report on the native inhabitants of the land;

Whereas Lewis and Clark and their companions began their historic journey to explore the uncharted wilderness west of the Mississippi River at Wood River, Illinois, on May 14, 1804, and followed the Missouri River westward from its mouth on the Mississippi to its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains;